Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The Scottish AI Alliance defines AI (Artificial Intelligence) as:

“a machine-based system that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers, from the input it receives, how to generate outputs such as predictions, content, recommendations, or decisions that can influence physical or virtual environments. Different AI systems vary in their levels of autonomy and adaptiveness after deployment."

Scotland’s AI Strategy (2026-2031) sets out the ambition to build on Scotland’s unique strengths, delivering tangible benefits for its people, businesses and communities. It shows how government, industry and academia will work together to shape the national response, and to ensure Scotland remains at the forefront of this new technology in the years ahead.

The use of trustworthy, ethical and inclusive AI by bidders and buyers (in accordance with your organisation's policies and guidance) **is not** prohibited during the procurement process. However, you may wish to consider the benefits and risks which the use of AI may present.

Types of AI

There are several different types of AI systems that are increasingly used at present and offer a variety of applications and outputs. You can find out more about these below:

Generative AI	Generative AI is a subset of AI that focuses on creating new data. Unlike AI systems that are designed for specific tasks, Generative AI system models can generate new content, such as text, images, or music, based on the prompts and input from the user at the outset. It will gather and use information and data from many sources. This can prove to be a useful tool for users but can also result in the information gathered containing inconsistencies or inaccuracies. As such, outputs must be carefully checked for reliability.
Large Language Models	Large Language Models (LLMs) are a subset of Generative AI specifically focused on language-related tasks. LLMs understand and generate human-like text. An example is ChatGPT which demonstrates the capabilities of generative AI in understanding and producing natural language responses.
Intelligent Automation	Automation is the use of technology to perform specific, predefined repetitive tasks, reducing manual intervention and enhancing efficiency. Intelligent Automation (IA) is a technology that blends automation technologies with artificial intelligence to create systems capable of handling complex tasks. Artificial intelligence is a critical component of intelligent automation, but it is not used in all automated systems. AI analyses data, developing a knowledge base and predictions based on that data. In conjunction with automation, AI can help improve accuracy and consistency of process in repetitive tasks.

You can find out more about AI by reading the next page What Do Bidders Need to Know About AI?